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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**INDIANAPOLIS WOMAN SENTENCED TO
FEDERAL PRISON FOR EMBEZZLEMENT,
IDENTITY THEFT, AND FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that CATHERINE STRYKOWSKI , 37, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 41 months imprisonment yesterday by U.S. District Judge John Daniel Tinder following her guilty plea to uttering or possessing counterfeited checks, identity theft, and making false tax returns. This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service.

From July 1995 until November 2003, CATHERINE STRYKOWSKI worked as a bookkeeper and office manager at Hollingsworth & Associates, an Indianapolis law firm. In her position, STRYKOWSKI had access to all of the firm's financial accounts and controlled a majority of the firm's recordkeeping activities.

During the years 1999-2003, STRYKOWSKI embezzled and misappropriated over \$500,00 from Hollingsworth & Associates. STRYKOWSKI carried out her embezzlement by writing checks to herself from firm bank accounts and cashing the checks. STRYKOWSKI concealed her embezzlement by creating and maintaining a bogus check ledger. The ledger showed that all of the checks STRYKOWSKI had written to herself and cashed were paid to third parties as business expenses. STRYKOWSKI also opened up credit card accounts using the personal information of firm principals and used the credit cards for her own personal use.

During the years 2000 through 2004, STRYKOWSKI signed and submitted to the IRS tax returns that falsely represented her adjusted gross income. The tax returns did not report as income include the monies she received as a result of her criminal conduct.

STRYKOWSKI lost all of the monies she stole from Hollingsworth & Associates gambling. At the sentencing, STRYKOWSKI stated that she stole to support her gambling addiction.

According to Assistant United States Attorney James P. Hanlon, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Tinder also imposed three years supervised release following STRYKOWSKI's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, STRYKOWSKI must undergo mental health treatment for gambling addiction. STRYKOWSKI was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$697,666.49.

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